

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, last night after hearing the State of the Union I can tell you I am excited to see that the President is willing and ready to step forward for a nonpartisan commitment to education. Clearly in our country the No. 1 priority for the years ahead and for the generations that rest ahead of us is education. I think that the President was sincere in that.

I did sense some of what I would perceive as lack of sincerity in regards to campaign reform. I think if the President is serious about campaign reform the first thing he needs to do is take the Mr. Coffee machine out of the White House and the cash register out of the White House and observe the rules that we have for campaign fundraising in this country. I think we have to be very careful before we step into that.

But I do want to commend the President. I look forward to working with the White House and the administration in furthering the education needs of this country. That really is where we need to focus our resources.

STATE OF THE UNION

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to sit in this Chamber last night and take part in the State of the Union Address by the President. I was extremely pleased that President Clinton focused so much of his speech on education.

As I watched the response of all my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to the President's educational proposals, I realize that we have a lot of common ground to work in. Making education opportunities more available to working families is a goal that is both bipartisan and crucial to the future success of our country. We must improve our educational systems for the children, college students, and adults who need to go back to school to learn new skills.

We are about to begin the 105th congressional session and this session must be about taking care of the needs of working families, and the only way we can take care of working families is by working in a bipartisan manner.

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The American people expect no less and certainly deserve no less.

HOUSE PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a local official in Portland, OR, we worked hard with employers, including government employers, to provide transit passes for our employees as an alternative to single

occupant vehicles. We found that transit pass programs improved morale, they decreased the demand for parking, helped clean air and decrease congestion, while saving our employees money.

Today I am introducing a resolution with broad bipartisan support that would give all House offices the option to participate in local transit programs, and employees here and at home, in every district, the opportunity to contribute to the liveability of their communities by using transit. I am embarrassed to say that the Senate has operated such a program since 1992, but be that as it may, it is time for the House to get on board.

No additional funds are needed in this resolution, since transit passes would be funded from existing House budgets. When we are asking employers across the country to step forward in the fight for clean air, we in the House must be prepared to do our part and to help our employees.

PASSING OF PAMELA HARRIMAN

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing of an outstanding and stellar member of our Nation's diplomatic corps.

Pamela Harriman was well known on the political scene in Washington for years, before President Clinton appointed her as our Ambassador to France, but her service in Paris made her a household word. All accounts agree that she was respected and loved by the people of France and that she had done much to bring our two nations closer together.

I had the pleasure of being with Mrs. Harriman on several occasions and found her to be an alert, well-informed spokesperson for America's global interests, and as you know, Harriman, NY, is part of my district, where the Harriman family has resided for many years.

As a widow of a former New York State Governor, Averill Harriman, we have a special place in our hearts for Pamela Harriman. Pamela Harriman will be sorely missed.

TOP PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member of Congress, I stand to commend and to thank the President for the inspiring speech that he made last night. I was particularly impressed by what he said about the vision and goals to educate our children, to prepare them for the 21st century.

As a university professor at the University of California, I know the value

of a strong and well-rounded education. It is now more important than ever that our students learn how to read, to learn mathematics, know how to use a computer, to realize that all of them can get a college education, to support the junior colleges, and to create a society that values lifelong education.

The learning process has always been a top priority in my district. I am very pleased that education was the subject that got most attention in the President's State of the Union Address last night.

EDUCATION: A FEDERAL PRIORITY

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to give every child and adult in this country the same opportunity that all of us took for granted in our youth: A decent education. How many times does Congress need to hear the statistics illustrating that quality education is the underpinning of opportunity before it makes education a Federal priority?

When my grandfather was a boy, his eighth grade education prepared him to be vice president of the Rio Grande Railroad. When my mother was a young woman, her college degree prepared her to teach. Today I know my two young girls will not have a chance to compete or even to live comfortably without significant higher education. Yet everyday in our country, another child is left behind, illiteracy rates soar, and higher education grows further out of the financial reach of thousands. It would be laughable if it was not unforgivable that the U.S. Government spends less than 1 percent of its money on education. I urge the House to take this issue up immediately and with vigor.

CRUSADE FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last night our President proposed a new crusade on education. I rise today in support of that crusade. Every Member of this Congress has heard from their constituents about how hard it is today to pay for a college education, and about how necessary it is for our children to be introduced today to the technology they will need for the jobs of tomorrow.

Last night, President Clinton gave hope to all families facing the daunting challenge of paying for their child's college education. The President called upon this House to make more funds available so that all of our children may enter the information age. This is critical if we are to continue to be the economic superpower in the 21st century. It is my hope that no Member of